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Without food . . . . Planes can't fly . . . Ships can't sail . . . Soldiers can't fight

To the American Wheat Farmer:

America's farms are its food plants, equipped with production lines where soil, sunshine, and sweat combine to produce the first need of every living creature—food. Before we can make guns, before we can fight, before we can crush our enemies, we must have food.

The Battle of Food is crucial. For victory on this front we must produce on every acre and produce the crops and livestock most needed. This job requires painstaking planning and hard work by every farmer. The need for food all along the line is too great to take a chance on too little—or too much—of any single crop.

The current demands for our food are the largest in history. Our people have the money to eat more and better than ever before. Military and lend-lease needs are great. As we liberate more hungry peoples from Axis domination, more American food will be called for. Furthermore, vast supplies of American food will be needed after the war to lay the foundations for a lasting peace.

The War Food Administration has set a national goal of approximately 380 million acres in crops for the 1944 harvest. This is the largest acreage ever requested of American farmers. It can be planted with safety by following sound farming practices.

The Nation needs more acreage in wheat for harvest next year. We also need increased acreages in many other crops that compete with wheat for the use of land, labor, and machinery. Some crops are needed more urgently than wheat in order to balance our total production against total demands.

Farmers also must manage their land and other resources wisely next year so that production can be continued at high levels for any succeeding years of the emergency. Wheat growers are cautioned against reckless plowing up of native sod or of former "dust bowl" land recently returned to permanent grass cover, and they are urged to maintain their strip cropping and fallow rotation.

In view of these considerations, the goal for wheat to be planted this fall and next spring has been set at 68 million acres, which is 14 million acres above the 1943 crop acreage.

The War Food Administration is pledged to assist farmers in maximum food production consistent with sound farming practices. Your local AAA committeeman is on the job to help you plan and carry out your 1944 production.

Sincerely,

H. E. Dodd

Chief, *Agricultural Adjustment Agency,*
War Food Administration,
United States Department of Agriculture

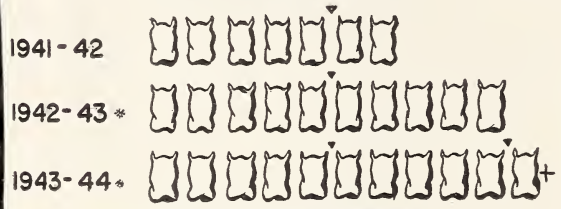
WANTED: 14 Million

Less than a year ago farmers had so much wheat on hand that they were confronted with a serious storage problem. We had just harvested a bumper 1942 crop of 981 million bushels on top of a record carry-over of 630 million bushels from the previous year.

But a sudden shift in wartime demands has cut deeply into our surplus. Much more wheat than normal is now being used for human food, for livestock feed, and for making commercial alcohol.

Within 12 months, the annual consumption of United States wheat has jumped from 700 million bushels to more than 1,000 million bushels, and the demands for wheat continue to climb. We are drawing upon reserves in the ever-normal granary—our wheat carry-over on July 1 of this year had decreased to about 600 million bushels.

WHEAT CONSUMPTION



1 BAG=100 MILLION BUSHELS.
*Estimated.

OUR WHEAT USERS

- **Our Armed Forces.**
  Expected to be more than 10 million strong next year. The average man in uniform eats about 215 pounds of flour and wheat products a year.

- **Our Civilians.**
  The folks at home require large amounts of wheat and other energy-building foods to maintain their health and strength.

- **Our Allies.**
  In 1942 we shipped the equivalent of 10 million bushels of wheat under lend-lease. More will be needed during the next year.

- **Liberated Countries.**
  Part of our food must be shared to help the starved inhabitants of war-stricken countries regain their strength. We have a formal obligation to furnish at least 50 million bushels of wheat for an international relief pool.

- **Our Livestock.**
  The current feed situation indicates that at least 250 million bushels of wheat will be needed to feed our large number of livestock during the next 12 months.

- **Our Industry.**
  The rate of wheat consumption to produce commercial alcohol for synthetic rubber and munitions has increased tremendously.

BALANCED PRODUCTION

Since our farmers are being called upon to feed more people than ever before, we must expand our total crop acreage for 1944 beyond the very large acreages planted during the last 2 years.

The tremendous proportions of the food demands and the definite limitations of our farm resources make it impossible to meet all the demands being made for animal products. Therefore, farmers are urged to plant more acres in crops which have a high value as food for direct human consumption.

There should be substantial increases in 1944 acreages for wheat, soybeans for beans, peanuts, flaxseed, dry beans, and peas. We also need to maintain or increase potatoes and sweetpotatoes and canning crops.

Since we want to maintain relatively high production of meat, dairy products, and eggs, it will be necessary to plant more acreage in certain feed crops, such as corn and alfalfa hay. It will be extremely important next year for farmers to raise on their own

...also GROW MORE OIL CROPS, FO

Acres More Wheat for '44!

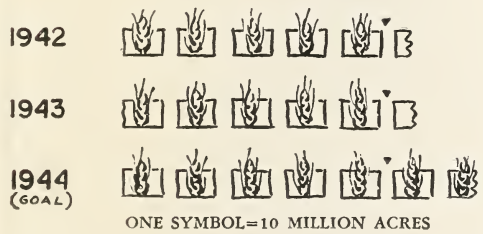
farms as much as possible of the feed required for their livestock.

With unprecedented demands for virtually every farm commodity, each farm family has a patriotic responsibility to plan and balance its 1944 production with extreme care. Every acre, every machine, and every unit of labor must be put to its most productive use.

The public also has a responsibility. We have discovered that record-breaking production, such as we had last year, will not avert wartime shortages in certain kinds of food when civilian desires are backed by prosperity incomes.

To assure best wartime use of our food, waste must be eliminated. Civilians should eat more of those foods which can be produced most quickly and with a minimum of resources.

WHEAT SEEDINGS



WHEAT ACREAGE FOR 1944

The National Goal for Wheat—68 million acres. (Compared with 54 million seeded acres for 1943; 52 million acres for 1942; 81 million acres, the all-time peak, for 1937.)

After taking into account our prospective total crop requirements for next year and the total acreage which we can safely put into crops, it is believed that the total land to be planted in wheat this fall and next spring should be expanded about 14 million acres over this year.

GREAT PLAINS: Most of the increased wheat acreage should be seeded in this area, extending from Montana and the Dakotas through Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST: Some wheat expansion is desirable.

CORN BELT AND LAKE STATES: Wheat acreage should remain about the same as this year.

EASTERN AND SOUTHERN STATES: Slight increases in wheat plantings are suggested. Farmers should continue to raise wheat to help supply local needs.

Here is a table showing what crops should be given priority over wheat in increasing 1944 acreages:

Great Plains	Pacific Northwest	Corn Belt and Lake States
Flaxseed	Dry peas	Soybeans
Dry beans	Dry beans	Corn
Potatoes	Potatoes	Dry beans
Grain sorghums	Canning crops	Potatoes
(In some areas)		Flaxseed
		Canning crops

★ Wheat should be grown for livestock feed in any area where it will produce more feed nutrients per acre than other feed crops.

★ The importance of careful planning and sound farming practices in expanding crop acreage cannot be overemphasized. Farmers are urged to consult with the local representatives of State and Federal farm agencies for advice on whether to plow up idle acres. Some land in the Great Plains area will have more value for food production when left for animal grazing.

16—36214-1

AND FEED CROPS, AND FIBER.. for Victory..

WANTED: *14 Million Acres More Wheat for '44!*

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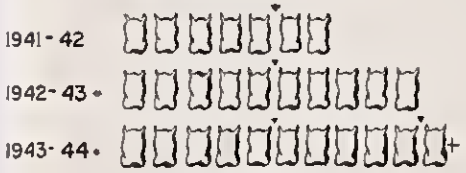

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. also GROW MORE OIL CROPS, FOOD AND FEED CROPS, AND FIBER . . for Victory . .

PRICE SUPPORTS AND PAYMENTS

The War Food Administration will develop programs to assure adequate returns to farmers who balance their production in accordance with national needs.

These programs will include:

PRICE SUPPORTS. Through commodity loans and Government purchases.

CONSERVATION PAYMENTS. Within the limits of available funds, payments will be made for conservation practices which increase or maintain land productivity. On some farms, the payments will be in the form of conservation materials and services.

More machinery and fertilizer will be available for farm production next year than in 1943. The War Production Board has authorized a sharp increase in the manufacture of new farm machinery (started July 1). Farmers will be able to obtain most of their fertilizer requirements for essential food and feed production in 1944.

Remember!

★ You have a responsibility to put your farm in the fight, producing at capacity in line with war needs.

★ Begin now to make plans for 1944 production. See your local AAA committeeman for the acreage of "priority crops" needed in your community.

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Issued July 1943